

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00889 272342Z

11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 113686

R 272255Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3056

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YS, CA

SUBJECT: US-YEMENI RELATIONS

1. DIRECTOR EXTAFF MIDDLE EAST DIVISION COUVRETTE CALLED EMBOFF TO CONVEY REPORT OF CANADIAN OFFICIAL WHO VISITED ADEN MARCH 24-25. OFFICIAL WENT TO ADEN TO NEGOTIATE RELEASE OF FOUR CANADIAN CREW AND PASSENGERS ON PLANE FORCED DOWN MARCH 20 BY YEMENI AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT FROM DJIBOUTI TO OMAN. THESE PERSONNEL WERE RELEASED AFTER SIGNING A PAPER ADMITTING VIOLATION OF YEMENI AIR SPACE (COUVRETTE SAID THIS WAS TOTALLY FALSE). REAL REASON FOR RELEASE, ACCORDING TO COUVRETTE, WAS THAT CANADIAN OFFICIAL WAS IN POSITION TO CONVEY AGREEMENT BY GOC TO YEMENI REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ACCREDITATION OF YEMENI AMBASSADOR AT UN TO OTTAWA.

2. WHILE IN ADEN, OFFICIAL WAS TOLD OF TWO US CITIZENS HELD THERE, ONE WITH FIVE-YEAR TERM FOR PHOTOGRAPHING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, AND ANOTHER HELD WITHOUT CHARGE OR CONSULAR ACCESS. CANADIAN OFFICIAL WAS TOLD THAT A US SENATOR (NAME NOT DISCLOSED) HAD TAKEN INTEREST IN CASE AND OFFERED TO VISIT ADEN. THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY WOULD WELCOME THIS VISIT. A YEMENI OFFICIAL
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TOLD THE CANADIAN THAT BOTH US CITIZENS WOULD BE "HELD

HOSTAGE" UNTIL SENATOR OR OTHER US OFFICIAL ARRIVED ADEN
WITH AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS.

2. COUVRETTE APOLOGIZED FOR SKETCHY NATURE OF THIS REPORT.
IT WAS CANADIAN OFFICIAL'S IMPRESSION HOWEVER THAT YEMENI
GOVERNMENT WISHED TO USE HIM TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO USG.

PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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